

Application No. 09/696,754

Attorney Docket No.: 26119-136C US1

Amendments of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A networked commercial interaction management method, comprising the steps of:

distributing information bundles from different ones of a first plurality of different networked users to different ones of a second plurality of different networked users according to a machine-readable format that includes values for a plurality of content attribute descriptors, wherein each of the information bundles includes values for a plurality of information fields characterizing commercial interactions associated with at least one of the first and second plurality of different networked users, and wherein a portion of said content attribute descriptors including include business language definition descriptors that specify the descriptive metadata of each of the information bundles;

managing commercial interactions between at least one of the first plurality of different networked users and at least one of the second plurality of different networked users using the information bundles; and

deriving traffic statistics for the step of distributing based on values for the content attribute descriptors, deriving traffic statistics for the step of distributing the information bundles.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 further including the step of converting the traffic statistics into billing amounts.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 2 wherein the step of converting converts traffic to different destinations to different billing amounts.

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**Claim 4 (Original):** The method of claim 2 wherein the step of converting converts traffic to billing amounts for events requested by programmed bundle processing logic between the different users.

**Claim 5 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 2 wherein the step of converting converts traffic to billing amounts for operations that are executed by programmed bundle processing logic.

**Claim 6 (Original):** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of deriving derives statistics about the presentation of offer bundles and acceptance rates for these offer bundles.

**Claim 7 (Original):** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of deriving derives statistics about the types of bundles transferred and information profiles for users involved in the transfers.

**Claim 8 (Original):** The method of claim 1 further including the step of transferring the statistics to buy-side users.

**Claim 9 (Original):** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of deriving operates substantially continuously in near-real time.

**Claim 10 (Original):** The method of claim 1 wherein the bundles distributed in the step of distributing include a data element reference and meta data describing the data element, and wherein each data element remains resident on a node of a data owner in a network.

**Claim 11 (Canceled)**

**Claim 12 (Original):** The method of claim 1 wherein the step of deriving derives statistics about a ticker symbol field.

**Claims 13 – 58 (Canceled)**

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**Claim 59 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 1 wherein a different portion from the portion of said content attribute descriptors includes bundle descriptors.

**Claim 60 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 1 wherein a different portion from the portion of said content attribute descriptors includes target descriptors.

**Claim 61 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 1, wherein said business language definition descriptors comprise keywords, said keywords having at least one value.

**Claim 62 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 61, wherein said keywords comprise at least one of Sector, Ticker, Region, Country, Author, Firm, and Bundle Type.

**Claim 63 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 61, wherein said values attached to said keywords are standardized through community agreement.

**Claim 64 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 1, wherein the step of distributing further comprises using at least one event table, wherein:

the at least one event table provides a sequence of activities with priorities, dependencies, execution methods, and requirements for actions on objects managed by an aggregation server; and

the at least one event table is defined based on at least one of bundle type, destination address, author, user role, or user definable properties.

**Claim 65 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 1, wherein the information bundles comprise a bundle header, routing data, metadata, and bundle contents.

**Claim 66 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 1, wherein the step of deriving traffic statistics further comprises deriving at least one of real-time statistics and historical statistics.

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**Claim 67 (Previously Presented):** The method of claim 65, wherein traffic statistics are used to perform at least one of judging the value of commercial partners, evaluating potential partners, and evaluating the market as a whole.

**Claims 68-75 (Cancelled)**

**Claim 76 (Withdrawn):** A computer-implemented networked commercial interaction management method, the method comprising:

distributing information bundles from a first plurality of networked users to a second plurality of networked users, wherein each bundle comprises a bundle header and bundle contents that include at least one of documents and reference to documents, and wherein the bundle header comprises:

bundle target descriptors that specify which of the second plurality of networked users have authorization to access the bundle; and

business language descriptors that specify the descriptive metadata of the bundle using keywords that are standardized through an agreement, wherein the business language descriptors have associated values;

updating values associated with the business language descriptors in response to distribution the information bundles; and

deriving traffic statistics regarding the distribution of information bundles and acceptance rates for each of the bundles based on the business language descriptors and the values associated with the business language descriptors.

**Claim 77 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 76 further comprising converting the traffic statistics into billing amounts.

**Claim 78 (Withdrawn):** The method of claim 77 wherein the step of converting converts traffic to different destinations to different billing amounts.

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Claim 79 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 78 wherein the step of converting converts traffic to billing amounts for events requested by programmed bundle processing logic between the different users.

Claim 80 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 79 wherein the step of converting converts traffic to billing amounts for operations that are executed by programmed bundle processing logic.

Claim 81 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 80 wherein the step of deriving derives statistics about the types of bundles transferred and information profiles for users involved in the transfers.

Claim 82 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 81 further comprising transferring the statistics to buy-side users.

Claim 83 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 82 wherein the step of deriving operates substantially continuously in near-real time.

Claim 84 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 83, wherein the keywords comprise at least one of Sector, Ticker, Region, Country, Author, Firm, and Bundle Type.

Claim 85 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 84, wherein the step of distributing further comprises using at least one event table that provides a sequence of activities with priorities, dependencies, execution methods, and requirements for actions on objects managed by an aggregation server.

Claim 86 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 85, wherein the at least one event table is defined based on at least one of bundle type, destination address, author, user role, and user definable properties.

Claim 87 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 86, wherein the step of deriving traffic statistics further comprises deriving at least one of real-time statistics and historical statistics.

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**Claim 88 (New): A networked commercial interaction management method, comprising the steps of:**

distributing information bundles according to a machine-readable format that includes values for content attribute descriptors and values for information fields characterizing commercial interactions associated with at least one of first and second networked users, and wherein a portion of said content attribute descriptors include business language definition descriptors that specify descriptive metadata of each of the information bundles, said information bundles adapted to be received from at least one of the first networked users and adapted to be sent to at least one of the second networked users;

managing commercial interactions between the at least one of the first networked users and the at least one of the second networked users using the information bundles; and

based on values for the content attribute descriptors, deriving traffic statistics for the step of distributing the information bundles.

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Claim 89 (New): A networked commercial interaction management method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a set of information bundles in a machine-readable format, each information bundle in the set of information bundles comprising a set of values for content attribute descriptors and values for information fields characterizing commercial interactions, the content attribute descriptors comprising business language definition descriptors that specify descriptive metadata relating to the set of information bundles;

based upon the set of information bundles, managing commercial interactions;

based on the set of values for the content attribute descriptors, deriving traffic statistics for the step of distributing the information bundles; and

transmitting an information bundle from the set of information bundles.